Essay

**Learning English as a second language**

TESOL 95th weekday

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It is widely accepted that learning English is one of the most important matters to get a success in the life. Especially, nowadays, as we live in global village, English is a good language for the people who have different mother tongue and culture. Thus, I studied English as a second language and I expect to improve speaking and writing fluently. As a result, my English is not as good as I expected. Personally, I learned English with old method, improving English skills are failed by traditional teaching method. I would like to give you some experiences to explain why I think modern teaching method is required.

When I entered a middle school student, I take a English class at first. The teachers were typical ‘explainers’. They focused on like a ‘Jug and Mug’ or ‘Chalk and Talk’ giving knowledge to students. There was only ‘teacher talking time’, not any ‘student talking time’. She spent most time to teach not productive skills but receptive skills. As I guess, it is likely that productive skills are very difficult to evaluate properly for examination. Furthermore, she concentrated on only accuracy not fluency. I should study English grammar and remember to get good grades for the tests. To get good grades in English tests, actually, productive skills did not need and receptive skills are only objects to check the students’ ability. That is why we need to bring TESOL courses to change English teaching method.

Also, when I was a high school student, even foreign language high school is not different. Unfortunately, foreign language high school is not free to competition for entering college and university, the number of students whom a teacher takes is fifty and it is too many to teach effectively. Although some native English teachers tried to be an ‘involver’ or an ‘enabler’, the time which is allowed them is too short to apply modern teaching method. They encouraged students to get confidence and emphasized trying to balance reading, listening, speaking, writing altogether. If there were a few people in the class, I could experience modern class English teaching method at that time.

To sum up, my experiences of studying English as a second language are depended traditional teaching method and most English teachers were strict and ‘explainer’. Therefore, I can insist that it was failure and teaching method must be changed to modern style. Teachers talking time should be lower and students talking time should be higher. Teachers have to have respect, empathy and authenticity to students and be enablers and involvers instead explainer.